



# PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR



NEWSBRIEF

February 2001

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## OREGON PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### Federal and State Agencies Coordinate Planning for Prineville Reservoir

#### Background and Purpose

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) are coordinating efforts to update the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and develop a new Master Plan for Prineville Reservoir. Reclamation will take the lead on the RMP, and OPRD will be leading the Master Planning effort. The plans will be combined into one document and are referred to as the RMP/MP in this newsbrief. The Prineville Reservoir is formed by Bowman Dam, which was built in 1958 through 1961 as part of Reclamation's Crooked River Project. It was authorized by Congress for irrigation storage, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife management. Home to Prineville State Park, the reservoir is one of Central Oregon's most popular recreational lakes. It is also prized for the high quality aquatic and upland habitat afforded for fish and wildlife and valuable scenic resources.

Resource planning at Prineville began over a decade ago, culminating in the current RMP, adopted by Reclamation in 1992. The RMP has served as the blueprint for the management of Reclamation's lands and resources at

Prineville Reservoir. The Master Plan will serve as the blueprint for future recreational use and facilities. The 1992 RMP was intended to cover the 10-year management timeframe now drawing to a close. Since the preparation of the 1992 RMP, the reservoir and adjacent lands have become increasingly important recreation sites, with increasing demand and use largely attributed to growing populations in Central Oregon and the Willamette Valley. The RMP needs to be updated to effectively respond to changing conditions. A plan for the future use and management of Prineville Reservoir State Park will be developed in a parallel process sponsored by OPRD. Some of the issues identified to date that will be addressed include balancing recreation use and natural resource protection, number and types of recreation facilities to provide, resource management objectives, providing for public health and safety, and management of off-road vehicle use.

The RMP/MP Update process will take approximately 2 years and is scheduled for completion in early 2003. This amount of

Visit us on the World Wide Web - follow the links to Prineville RMP/MP

[www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov)

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## Background and Purpose (continued)

time is needed so that all stakeholders, including the general public, have ample opportunity to express their interests, concerns, and viewpoints, and to provide comments as the plans develop. This schedule also includes time to develop alternatives and evaluate their impacts through the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The 1992 Prineville RMP will serve as a starting point for conducting the planning process. It is Reclamation's intention to both: (1) remain aware of and learn from the 1992 RMP (i.e., what has worked and what has not worked; what is still relevant and what is no longer applicable); and (2) look at the issues and problems at the reservoir with a fresh perspective. New data being collected by OPRD and Reclamation on such issues as vegetation cover, habitat, recreation use and demand, cultural resources, etc. will be used to update the baseline planning assumptions.

The updated RMP will be Reclamation's blueprint for the future use, management, and site development of the reservoir over the next 10 years. It will confirm existing or identify new goals and objectives for resource management, specify desired land and resource use patterns, and explain the policies and actions that will be implemented during the next ten-year time period. The RMP and Master Plan will identify future recreation demand and needs, and determine the most appropriate recreation uses based on the suitability of the land to accommodate different uses. They will also recommend goals and objectives for the future uses and development of park facilities.

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## Key Planning Issues Identified to Date

Based on current and ongoing conditions at the reservoir, Reclamation and OPRD have identified some issues that need to be addressed by the plans. Dialog with stakeholders and the general public will no doubt reveal more issues in the early phases of the planning effort.

The issues identified to date, listed in no particular order, are as follows:

- Law enforcement and public safety services
- Development of new recreation facilities
- Protection of natural resources
- Boat trailer parking
- Accessibility
- Fish and wildlife habitat and enhancement needs
- Availability of services such as potable water
- Health and sanitation needs
- Education and interpretation

- Robert's Bay - balancing use levels and resource protection
- Access roads and changing use patterns
- North Side Road - balancing use levels and wildlife concerns
- South Shore needs - potable water, waste, electrical
- Grazing management
- Juniper management
- Off-road vehicle (ORV) management
- Cultural resource protection and education
- Reservoir fishery protection
- Water quality
- Invasive and noxious weed control
- Fire management
- Cryptobiotic (rare/unique) soil protection
- Signage - regulatory, informational, and interpretive

Please use the attached Mail-In Response Form on pages 5 and 6 of this Newsbrief to comment on, add to, and prioritize this preliminary list as desired.

## Planning Process Schedule and Workplan

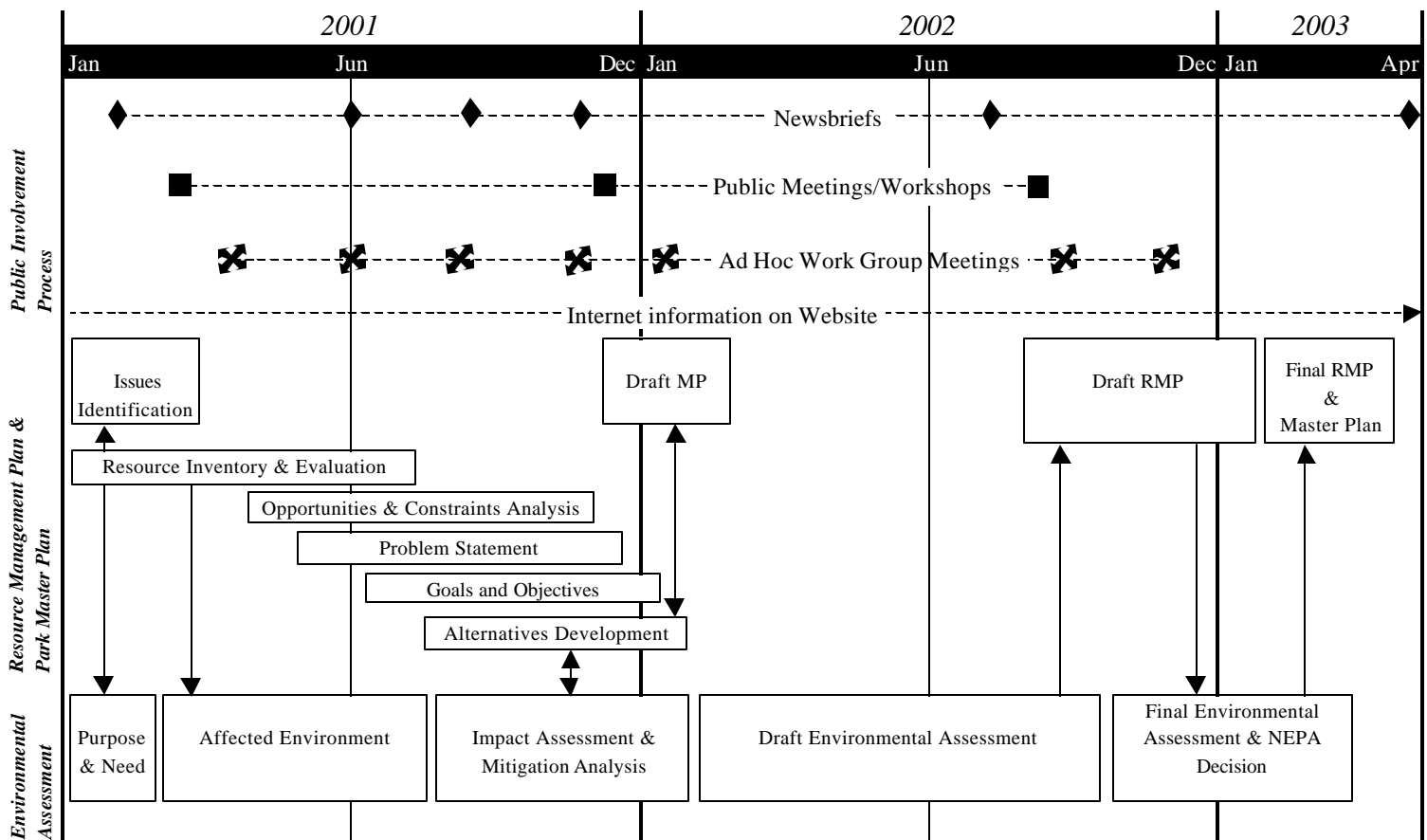
As shown in the diagram below, the first stage of the process is to identify key issues to be addressed by the RMP/MP plans and EA. In tandem with this task is an inventory and evaluation of the area's resources and existing conditions. Future phases will include an opportunities and constraints analysis; formulation of goals and objectives; development of plans, policies, and guidelines; and preparation of draft and final documents for public and agency review.

Beginning in the fall of 2001, the planning effort will turn to assessing alternative management approaches, developing strategies aimed at addressing identified issues, and achieving the goals and objectives of the plan. Ulti-



mately, a proposed plan will evolve from the efforts of the Planning Team and from input by stakeholders and the general public through the Public Involvement Program. The final updated RMP and the Master Plan are targeted for completion by early 2003.

## Schedule and Workplan



## Public Involvement Program

To integrate the broad spectrum of public interests involved in planning for Prineville Reservoir, Reclamation and OPRD are jointly organizing an extensive public involvement program. The goal of public involvement is to reach as many people as possible and to encourage active participation by all interested stakeholders. Public opinions are very important in this process, and your input is needed for us to make meaningful decisions on a proposed plan. To achieve this goal, the planning process will incorporate a public involvement program that includes:

- Newsbriefs (like this one)
- Public meetings/workshops
- an Ad Hoc Work Group
- an RMP/MP website on the Internet

**Newsbriefs** - The Planning Team will prepare 6 Newsbriefs during the project. The purpose of this first Newsbrief is to introduce the project, explain the public involvement program, and identify the initial list of issues. Initial input by return mail is also requested in the enclosed Mail-in Response Form. Fu-



ture Newsbriefs will summarize results of the resource inventory studies and analyses; identify the full range of issues that the plans will address; describe the goals, objectives, and criteria to be used in developing alternatives;

illustrate and describe the alternative courses of action considered in the RMP; and present the substance of and rationale behind the proposed course of action and other components of plan development.

**Public Meetings/Workshops** - Reclamation and OPRD will jointly host three public meetings/workshops over the course of the project, with the first meetings held in both Prineville and Portland and subsequent meetings in Prineville only. All of the meetings are intended to obtain public input into the planning process and, as the studies proceed, to share the results. The first meetings are scheduled for March 14 in Prineville, and March 15 in Portland. For more information on the meeting times and locations, see the last page of this Newsbrief. The goals of the first set of meetings are to: (1) introduce the combined RMP Update/Park Master Plan process, (2) identify issues to be addressed by the plans, (3) obtain public input regarding Ad Hoc Work Group representation, and (4) obtain scoping input for the EA being prepared on the RMP.

The second public meeting (tentatively scheduled for late November 2001) will focus on describing and obtaining commentary on a range of alternatives being developed as part of the planning process. The third and final public meeting will focus on the preferred alternative and Draft EA. Comments received at that meeting will be used to finalize the EA and RMP/MP. More information about future meetings will be included in future Newsbriefs.

**Ad Hoc Work Group** - Reclamation and OPRD are inviting the participation of representative stakeholders by organizing an Ad Hoc Work Group to provide valuable input into the planning process. This Work Group will include representatives from key interest groups, jurisdictions, and agencies with a significant interest in the future management and use of the reservoir. The Work Group will work interactively with the Planning Team

(text continued on page 7)

# Mail-In Response Form

If you do not plan on attending the first series of public meetings, or would like to respond to us in writing, please consider answering the questions below and mailing back this page of the Newsbrief. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you.

1. Do you: *(Please check all boxes that apply)*

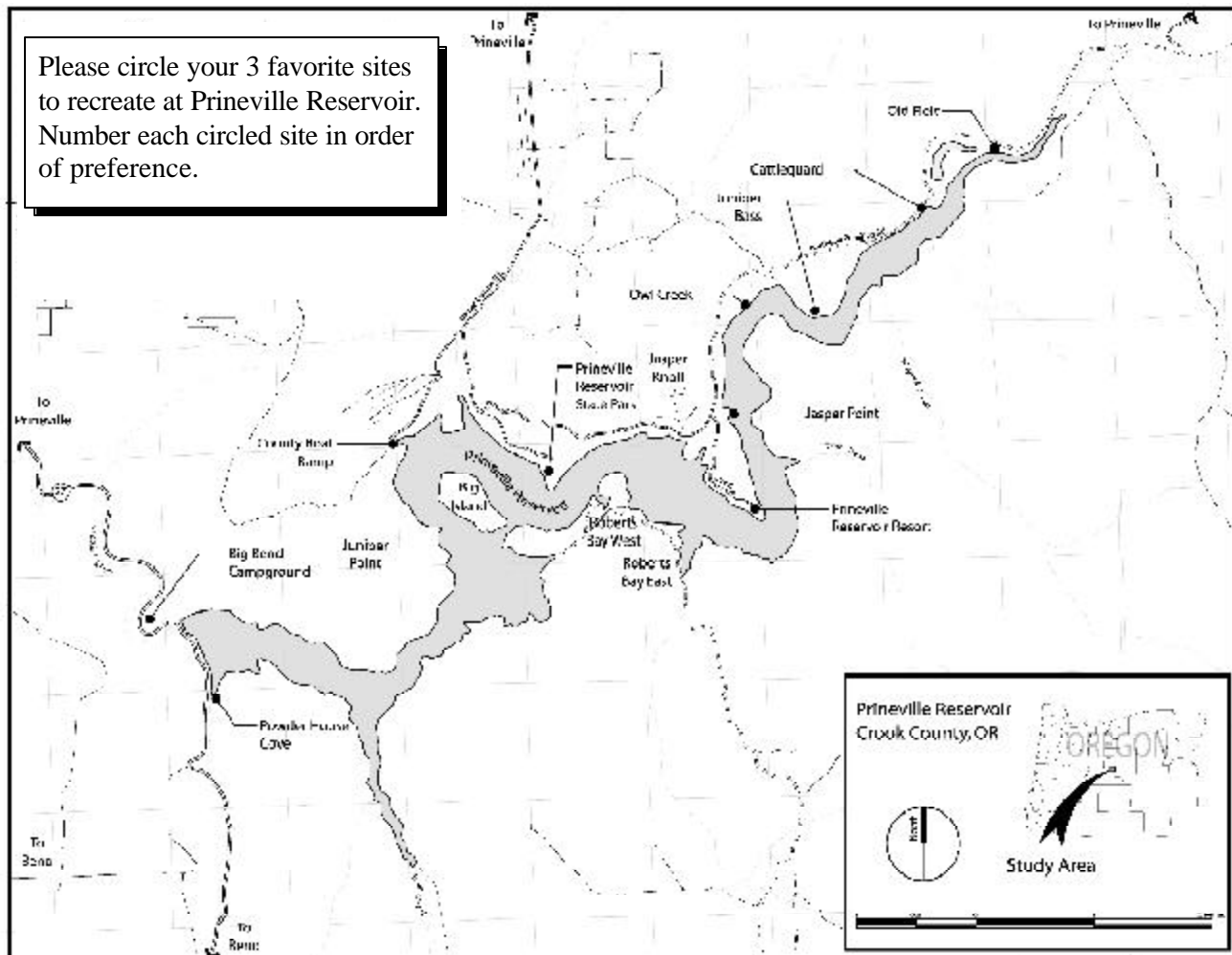
- ☐ Reside permanently in the area shown on the map
- ☐ Reside in Crook County
- ☐ Reside elsewhere but within a 2.5-hour drive of Prineville Reservoir
- ☐ Have a second home near Prineville Reservoir
- ☐ Reside more than a 2.5-hour drive from Prineville Reservoir

2. What recreation activities do you participate in at the reservoir? *(Please check all boxes that apply)* What is your primary activity? *(Please circle letter that applies)*

- ☐ A. Sightseeing
- ☐ B. Fishing from boat
- ☐ C. Fishing from shore
- ☐ D. Big game hunting
- ☐ E. Waterfowl hunting
- ☐ F. Swimming/sunbathing
- ☐ G. Power boating/waterskiing
- ☐ H. Sailing/windsurfing
- ☐ I. Canoeing/kayaking
- ☐ J. Camping - tent
- ☐ K. Camping - RV
- ☐ L. Picnicking
- ☐ M. Horseback riding
- ☐ N. Hiking
- ☐ O. Bicycling
- ☐ P. Motorbike riding
- ☐ Q. Off-road vehicle use
- ☐ R. Winter use (indicate activity)

☐ S. Other *(please specify)*

Please circle your 3 favorite sites to recreate at Prineville Reservoir. Number each circled site in order of preference.



4. Why do you enjoy living in/visiting the Prineville Reservoir area? *(please check all boxes that apply)*

- ☒ Have friends and relatives in the area  
☒ Recreation opportunities  
☒ Scenery  
☒ Fish and wildlife  
☒ Undeveloped, low-key character  
☒ Developed facilities/services  
☒ Inexpensive  
☒ Other *(please specify)*

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5. Using the preliminary list of issues shown on page 2 as a guide, please list the issues that are of the greatest concern to you and number them in order of importance (1 being most important). If there are other issues not listed that you feel are important, please include them below.

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6. Do you plan to attend one of the two first public meetings scheduled for March 14 and 15, 2001?

☒ yes ☒ no

If yes, which one? Prineville (Mar. 14) \_\_\_ Portland (Mar. 15) \_\_\_

7. Do you want to remain on the mailing list to receive subsequent Newsbriefs for this project? (In either case, please provide your name and address)

☒ yes ☒ no

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8. Is there anyone else you know who would like to be on the mailing list? In addition, please let us know if your name or address needs to be updated or corrected.

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9. Is there an agency, specific organization, or group of individuals you feel should be represented on the Ad Hoc Work Group described on page 4 of the Newsbrief?

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Question responses and letters should be mailed to Vicki Kellerman, Reclamation's project manager, at the address shown below. This page should be folded in thirds and taped closed. Be sure Reclamation's address is on the outside. **Thank you for time and interest!**

**Please Return by March 5, 2001**

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
Attn: Vicki Kellerman PN-3906  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234



**Public  
Involvement  
Program  
(continued)**

over the course of the project, assisting in providing input to define issues, developing goals and objectives, assessing alternatives, policy and plan options, and the proposed plans.

The Work Group will be formed in early 2001. Reclamation will hold the first Work Group meeting in April 2001, with six more meetings scheduled over the course of the project. A preliminary list of potential Work Group members is provided below.

- Ochoco and North Unit Irrigation Districts
- Crook and Deschutes Counties
- Cities of Prineville and Bend
- Warm Springs Tribe
- State agencies (e.g., ODFW, OPRD, ODOT, Oregon State Marine Board)
- Federal agencies (e.g., BLM, USFWS)
- Prineville Reservoir Resort concessionaire
- Homeowners Association
- Cattlemen's Association
- Watershed Councils
- Prineville Chamber of Commerce
- Recreation groups (e.g., Friends of Robert's Bay, ORV group, boating group, water ski groups, Good Sam club, hunting interests, Trout Unlimited)
- Environmental groups (e.g., American Rivers, Sierra Club, Audubon Society)



If you would like to provide input regarding the range of interests to be included in the Work Group or have a specific suggestion regarding interest groups, the attached Mail-In Response Form provides a place for this.

***U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Website*** - To increase public access to information about the update to the Prineville Reservoir RMP/MP, Reclamation has designed an RMP website, accessible via the Internet. Electronic mail (e-mail) and the World Wide Web (WWW) are preferred methods of communication for many public agencies, interest groups, businesses, and a growing percentage of the general public. Information posted on the website will include meeting announcements, project information, and feedback mechanisms to receive public input (such as an electronic version of the response form contained in this Newsbrief). The RMP/MP Update website will be operational by mid March 2001 and can be accessed at that time through Reclamation's main website at the following address: [www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov).



## The Planning Team

Preparing the RMP and Master Plan will involve an interdisciplinary planning team of outdoor recreation planners, natural resource specialists, biologists, landscape architects, and public outreach specialists. Reclamation and OPRD will jointly conduct the planning process. Reclamation has contracted with

EDAW, Inc., a planning firm with previous experience on resource management plans, to provide support in preparing the RMP/MP and EA. EDAW will be assisted by John Petrovsky Associates who will lead the public involvement program.



## PUBLIC MEETING/ WORKSHOP

To “kick off” the project and introduce what’s needed to update the RMP and develop the Master Plan, Reclamation and OPRD are holding the following two public meetings/workshops:

### **March 14, 2001**

Crook County Fairgrounds  
Cary Foster Hall  
590 SE Lynn Blvd  
Prineville, OR 97754  
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

### **March 15, 2001**

Hilton Portland  
921 SW 6th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204  
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

These locations were selected in part because of the facilities’ accessibility to people with disabilities. Interested persons needing special services should contact Connie Wensman, PN Region Accessibility Coordinator at (208) 378-5317 at least 10 days before the scheduled meeting TDD #1-800-377-3529.



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
PN Regional Office  
Attn: Vicki Kellerman PN-3906  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234